

Testimony for Health Policy Committee

June 7, 2012

Citizens for Traditional Values

Amy Hawkins

Thank you, Madame Chair, and fellow committee members for providing me this opportunity to address you this morning. As the Executive Director of Citizens for Traditional Values, I am here to ask you to support the pro-life omnibus package of bills including House Bill 5711, 5712 and 5713.

My testimony today, as a woman, will address the benefits of these bills to all Michigan women. But please also take my comments into consideration as I represent the average age of women who are having abortion procedures.

Your role as elected leaders is to see to the issues at hand, which have impact both in this current generation and for generations to come. One of the major topics contributing to our culture's current narrative is the advancement, protection and improvement of women's rights, commonly described in today's headlines as *The War on Women*.

As a benefactor of certain female freedoms, thanks to the labor of previous generations, such as voting, driving, or having a meaningful career outside the home, I appreciate the intent of certain voices to defend women's rights.

I think you would agree with me that if we, as cultural and government leaders as is in your case, seek to effectively empower women, it is imperative that we assess and address the true threats that currently exist. For the issues connected to the abortion industry, as addressed in these bills, it is time that we stop the long existing trend of "looking the other way". If we aim to be leaders who will have a formidable impact on our society in Michigan, and the dignity of women at large, I am asking you to take this issue head on – now.

I encourage you to support this package of bills for the following three reasons.

1. Women deserve to have their privacy honored. Anytime a big decision is at hand, or a life altering procedure is being done, it is imperative to that woman's confidence that her privacy be respected and protected. Instead of abortion clinic clients having their information carelessly tossed into the trash, as has been discovered in Michigan, our information should be kept confidential and not taken lightly. It is our identity and this is a very personal thing.

2. Women deserve better than coercion; we deserve the truth and then the freedom to make an educated decision. The moment we realize we have been deceived, our trust shuts down not only for the individual assisting us, but the entity he/she is associated with and possibly the industry they represent.

3. Women deserve to have the highest quality of care from their healthcare provider. And relating specifically to the legislation being discussed, this includes:

- Women need one-on-one, in person, care between the patient and the doctor. Anything having to do with medical treatment is best carried out face to face, versus the cold, harsh system of technology like a doctor overseeing an abortion through a video camera.
- Women must have health related treatments done in safe, clean and licensed environments, with sterilized instruments, by medical leaders who take this responsibility seriously.
- Women need assurance that penalties are being carried out against those who have broken the law. If one aspect of the medical community is not playing by the rules, why should we expect any aspect of this industry to do what is right? To not meet illegal activity with significant punishment will only make our confidence in that industry diminish.

In conclusion, I know you are well meaning legislators who want to help government put good policy in place that protects our interests as women. We are independent and love our freedoms, but we also appreciate knowing someone “has our back”. So for this intention, I thank you.

Previous generations of women have suffered from poor care, oversight of justice, a web of deception and a lack of transparency. On behalf of women all over Michigan, I ask you to redeem their sacrifices and make Michigan more healthy and more safe.

Please support this package of bills. Thank you.